

NEW YORK HERALD

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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letter and telegraphic  
despatches must be addressed NEW YORK  
HERALD.  
Letters and packages should be properly  
sealed.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- BOHEMIA THEATRE, Bowery.—FATE—BROTHER BILL  
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- OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BALLET FAN-  
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- ROOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av.—  
HAMLET.
- GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 5th av. and 23d st.—  
CHARLES O'MALLEY.
- WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 9th st.—Perform-  
ances afternoon and evening.—SATAN IN SKIN.
- FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—  
THE NEW DRAMA OF DIVORCE.
- LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, No. 729 Broadway.—OPERA  
BOUFE.—BARRIS BLAS AC.
- WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—  
JOHN GASTEL.
- NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and  
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- MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—  
ROMANCE OF A POOR YOUNG MAN.
- ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—THE GREAT  
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- BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montague street.—  
ITALIAN OPERA.—FATE.
- THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCAL-  
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- UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Fourteenth st. and Broad-  
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- TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 301 Bowery.—  
NEGRO ENTERTAINERS, BURLESQUE, AC.
- BRANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 224 st., between 6th  
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TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, December 22, 1871.

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GOLD 108½.—Gold declined yesterday to  
108½, the lowest point since June 25, 1862,  
when the price ranged from 108½ to 108½.

NEW ORDER OF SOUTHERN ARISTOCRACY.—  
A correspondent of the Mobile Register, writ-  
ing from West Florida, refers to a class of  
society there known as the "logocracy." It  
is said to be the peer of the cottonocracy in  
wealth and influence, and to be of the regular  
"live oak" stamp.

THE SUFFERINGS OF THE POOR in this fear-  
fully cold weather, with their scanty supplies  
of food, clothing and fuel, must be dreadful.  
The time has come when our charitable socie-  
ties and citizens, who can and are willing to  
afford relief, should proceed to some system-  
atic relief measures. The great revolution in  
our city government, among its immediate  
consequences, has stopped the usual winter  
supplies to thousands of poor people, and  
should this bitter weather continue we shall  
have before long an unprecedented amount of  
distress among our destitute classes and a cor-  
responding increase of crime in all its various  
forms. Systematic measures for the relief  
of the destitute in this view of the subject should  
be at once undertaken by our active philan-  
thropists.

NEGRO RAIDS IN THE SOUTH.—We have  
reports from Arkansas and Texas which show  
that the negroes are making raids into the  
small towns and shooting down white people  
indiscriminately. In Lake City, Arkansas, a  
mob of negroes shot dead several persons and  
took possession of the town, which they held  
at last accounts, while citizens having fled for  
safety. A letter from Tyler, Texas, reports  
that a raid was made into that place lately by  
an armed negro mob, who shot right and left  
among unarmed white people, killing two  
prominent citizens and wounding others. This  
is a dangerous business for Sambo, for it is  
likely to lead to a reaction which will in-  
evitably drive him to the wall, if it does not ex-  
terminate him altogether. "Peace" is mani-  
festly the negro's, as well as the white man's,  
policy in the South, and the sooner they agree  
upon that point the better it will be for all  
classes.

The Prospect of Returning to Specie Payments.

Gold in its steady decline has fallen  
below 100, the lowest point reached  
since July, 1862, the second year of the  
war, when the difficulties and cost of that  
stupendous struggle began to send the pre-  
mium up higher. This was nearly ten years  
ago. The fluctuations have been great during  
that period, and were governed principally  
while the war lasted by the varying successes  
or failures of our armies. Since the war  
closed the tendency has been downward,  
though there has been at times a spasmodic  
rise caused by Wall street speculations,  
political affairs at home or troubles in Europe.  
This, however, was but temporary, and the  
general tendency, as we said, has been down-  
ward all along. We are now in the seventh  
year since the war ended and have nearly ap-  
proached a specie basis again. In fact, if the  
difference of exchange between Europe and  
this country be not taken into account, we are  
within a fraction of the specie basis of the  
rest of the world. There is no reason, then,  
why we should not soon return to specie pay-  
ments.

It took England eight years more, after the  
prolonged and exhausting wars with the first  
Napoleon, to restore specie payments. Several  
efforts were made by the British govern-  
ment, between 1815 and 1823, to accomplish  
that object, but without success. It was a  
forced measure at last, and perhaps forced  
prematurely, for the nation experienced  
several financial revolutions subsequently, and  
within the course of a few years. Times have  
changed a great deal since that period. While  
the United States piled up a larger debt in  
four years than England did from the Napo-  
leonic wars, and the destruction of property  
with us was incalculably greater—civil war  
being much more destructive than war outside  
a nation's territory—the condition of this  
country and the circumstances of the times  
are more favorable to an early resumption and  
maintaining a specie basis. We have grown  
up steadily and in a healthy manner to the  
present improved state of things. Specie and  
our paper currency have been approximating  
to par without the intervention of govern-  
ment, and through our resources, industry  
and the laws of nature and trade. There  
has been at times a disposition in Congress  
and the administration to force specie pay-  
ments by contracting the currency, but this  
was checked by the voice of the people and the  
interests of trade. We have over and  
over again since the war warned Congress  
not to be too hasty, and have asserted that  
the laws of nature and trade and the natural  
decline of gold would point out the time for  
resumption. Facts have justified us in our  
arguments and prediction. Had the British  
government been guided by like views after  
the Napoleonic wars, and not been too eager  
to force specie payments, England would have  
been spared those terrible revolutions which  
followed resumption. We have passed the  
Sylla and Charybdis of national financial dif-  
ficulty and may now prepare to return to specie  
payments.

Several movements have been started in  
Congress since the present session commenced  
with a view to bring about resumption. The  
House Committee on Banking and Currency  
have been considering the question, and bills  
that have been introduced relating to it have  
been referred to a sub-committee for examina-  
tion and a report. It is said that this sub-  
committee will be prepared to report shortly  
after the holidays and that there is an im-  
pression the report will be  
strongly in favor of some measure  
for resumption. Mr. Sumner, in the Senate,  
is intent on urging an immediate return  
to specie payments. Other Senators are seri-  
ously considering the question. It is clear,  
too, the President and Secretary of the Treas-  
ury are favorable to resumption, if that can  
be accomplished without deranging the  
national finances. The tendency is in every  
direction to that end. The very action of  
Congress, if determined and able to provide  
for resuming specie payments, will have the  
effect of bringing down the premium on gold  
lower than it is at present, and will make the  
change easy. We should not be surprised to  
see specie and greenbacks at par during the  
process of legislation on the subject. If no ex-  
traordinary event or disaster should happen—  
and there is no reason to anticipate that—we  
should return to specie payments, probably,  
as quietly and insensibly as the dew falls upon  
the ground, and people would then wonder at  
the facility of the operation.

There is one mistake, however, which Con-  
gress seems disposed to run into, and which  
must be avoided. Congressmen appear to  
have the impression that the legal tender  
greenbacks are in the way of resumption, and  
that they must be got rid of, or a large amount  
of them, at least, be withdrawn and cancelled.  
This is the old theory which the specie  
payment question have been harped upon all  
along. Yet they learn nothing from the fact  
that the existence of the greenback legal ten-  
ders has not prevented the steady decline in  
gold and graded approximation to a specie  
basis. It is a question whether we should  
not have reached specie payment before now,  
if there had been no other currency than that  
of the legal tenders. The object has not been  
and is not really to contract the paper circula-  
tion of the country by withdrawing the green-  
backs, but to substitute national bank notes in  
their place. The true way to reach specie pay-  
ments is to make the national banks redeem  
their notes in coin and not to interfere with the  
legal tenders. A portion of their reserve  
might be in legal tenders, with a sufficient  
amount of specie to meet any demand upon  
them. The greenbacks, in such a case, would  
be instantly at par; would be as valuable and  
as much sought as are the notes of the Bank  
of England; for they represent the credit of  
the government, and the banks would find  
these greenbacks more convenient and desir-  
able to the people than specie. The converti-  
bility of national bank notes into specie or legal  
tenders, at the option of the holder, would  
make gold in little demand, for legal tenders  
would be as good as specie, and the people  
would prefer them. There is no necessity  
to extinguish the legal tenders and thus add  
twenty millions a year to the interest of the  
debt. The consequence of withdrawing the  
greenbacks would be, not to diminish the vol-  
ume of paper circulation materially, if at all,  
but to give it to the national banks and add to  
the interest of the debt and burden of the peo-

ple twenty millions or so a year. The proper  
way, as was said, is to make the national banks  
redeem their notes in specie or in greenbacks,  
compelling them to hold enough for whichever  
might be demanded, and then, we venture to  
say, little specie would be called for and the  
legal tenders would be always at par with gold.

But to facilitate specie payments and main-  
tain them it is important to reduce taxation to  
the lowest point possible, to remove this bur-  
den from industry and to give an impetus to  
production and trade. The immense revenue  
and expenditures of the government are de-  
pressing. They have no effect in improving  
its credit, but tend rather to damage it. If  
the government would cut off a hundred mil-  
lions or so of taxation, come down to strict  
economy in all the departments and call only  
for a small surplus revenue for a sinking fund  
for the national debt, we have no doubt its  
credit would rise greatly both at home and  
abroad, and specie payments would be estab-  
lished without fear of a revolution. We have  
boundless resources—resources which are in-  
creasing yearly in an extraordinary degree—  
and the world is conscious of that. It is only  
necessary to show that we know how to use  
them properly in order to inspire confidence.  
And this really is the great question. Finan-  
cial success with nations depends upon confi-  
dence, as with individuals. To reach and  
sustain specie payments does not require an  
enormous revenue and a Treasury full of un-  
profitable capital, but a wise and economical  
administration of the national finances. All  
the circumstances of our condition and the  
times favor a return to a specie basis, and  
Congress cannot do better than to turn its at-  
tention seriously to this subject. We see no  
reason why there should not be resumption  
next spring or summer, at the latest, and if  
the measures can be matured this might be  
reached earlier. Universal amnesty and a  
return to specie payments will close up the  
war effectually and impel the country on in  
its career of progress and prosperity.

Congress Yesterday—General Amnesty  
Again Deferred—The One-Term Principle  
is Office—More Light Wanted.

The discussion on the House bill of last  
session granting general amnesty and grace to  
all persons implicated in the late rebellion  
occupied the Senate all day yesterday; but  
we regret to say that the time was spent, not  
in action, but in talk, and that that great  
measure of peace and good will, whose pas-  
sage would have been so appropriate to this  
Christmas season, has been deferred until  
after the holidays. The case of Mr. Vance,  
the Senator elect from North Carolina, had  
something to do with the failure of the bill,  
because there is a manifest desire in some  
quarters to prevent his getting a seat in the  
Senate. Mr. Logan referred to that fact in  
some remarks, in which he spoke of  
the buttonholing of Senators by per-  
sons who were advocates of general  
amnesty, but who, for the reason  
intimated, did not want to have the bill passed  
at present. And thus, through some contempti-  
ble motives of personal or partisan hostility,  
the Amnesty bill has miscarried in the Senate,  
with no great probability of its being passed  
for months, or perhaps for years to come.

Mr. Sumner seems to be of the opinion that  
with all the matters of inquiry which have  
been referred to the Committee on Investiga-  
tion and Retrenchment that body may still  
have some idle time on hand, and in order  
that that shall not be so he has devised still  
another matter for its consideration, and that  
is as to the leasing of the Bay of Samana by  
our government, and as to the sources from  
which the money paid on account thereof has  
come. The Senate gratified Mr. Sumner to  
the extent of ordering the inquiry to be  
made, but with the understanding, doubt-  
less, that the party who prefers the  
indictment will be prepared to produce  
evidence to substantiate it. Mr. Sumner owes  
it to his own character and position to be  
ready to make out at least a *prima facie* case  
in support of this and the other charges and  
insinuations against the President of which  
he has made himself the mouthpiece. If not  
he will have placed himself in an unenviable  
position before the country, and will deserve  
a fitting rebuke from the body of which he is  
a member. The other proposition which Mr.  
Sumner made in the Senate yesterday is one  
for which praise rather than blame is to be  
ascribed to him. It is a joint resolution  
proposing an amendment to the constitution  
so as to make a President ineligible for a  
second term. We agree with him that such a  
provision would be a long stride in the way  
of civil service reform, although, perhaps, some  
of the reasons which apply to the Chief Execu-  
tive are equally applicable to Senators and  
members of Congress. If the one is actuated,  
in the dispensing of patronage or in his official  
course, by an ambition for re-election, will it  
be denied that the others are equally so? We  
think not. But, however the one-term prin-  
ciple may be decided, there can be no doubt of  
the necessity of such a reform in our civil ser-  
vice as will remove the question of appoint-  
ment to or retention in office entirely away  
from the influence of politics and politicians.  
With such a reform effected the main argu-  
ment against a second term in the Presidential  
office would lose most of its force, and the  
constitutional amendment proposed would  
even be a measure of doubtful propriety.

The order of the day in the House yester-  
day was what has come to be technically de-  
nominated "speeches for buncombe." Some  
half a dozen members declaimed in turn to  
empty seats and galleries garnished only with  
negroes whom the cold weather and want of  
employment drove there.

Both houses have adjourned over till Mon-  
day, the 8th of January.

THE MIKADO OF JAPAN has visited a num-  
ber of the foreign residents in the empire.  
His Highness enjoys this new phase of his  
everyday life vastly. He will become still  
more popular in consequence. About New  
Year's Day of 1873 he will have learned what  
silly non-progressive and ridiculous old fogies  
his imperial ancestors have been.

A RUSSIAN OFFICIAL PRESS ORGAN, which  
has just appeared in St. Petersburg, explains  
Minister Ostrovsky's removal from Washing-  
ton on purely personal grounds, while it re-  
affirms the fact of the existence of "good re-  
lations between Russia and the United States."

The New York Herald's African Expe-  
dition in Search of Dr. Livingstone.

We print in this morning's issue a report  
which, in point of interest and variety of  
detail, will take rank among the most  
interesting documents that from time to  
time it has fallen to the lot of the  
HERALD to place before its readers. It is  
now nearly two years since one of the  
HERALD correspondents travelling in the East  
received orders to prepare and fit out an ex-  
pedition, and then "find out Livingstone and  
get what news you can relating to his  
discoveries." Dr. Livingstone, as our readers  
are doubtless all aware, left England in  
April of 1865 to again engage in exploring  
the unknown wilds of the great African Con-  
tinent. Two years after the great traveller  
had quitted England a report of his  
death was received, but the rumor could  
be traced to no reliable source. Since  
then information at various times has  
been received regarding him. In 1867 an ex-  
pedition left England to ascertain the where-  
abouts of the distinguished explorer; but little  
resulted from the enterprise. At length,  
wearied with waiting and occasionally hear-  
ing reports of the man whose energy, courage  
and perseverance led him to attempt so much  
for the ends of science and the enlightenment  
of mankind, the press, true to its mission of  
universal beneficence, resolved to solve the  
problem and set at rest and forever the query  
on which scholars and investigators have for  
long years been perplexed and at variance,  
and determine absolutely whether Dr. Living-  
stone is alive or dead.

On the 6th day of January of the year now  
drawing to its close the HERALD correspond-  
ent entrusted with the mission arrived at Zan-  
zibar, and commenced his preparations for the  
arduous and difficult undertaking he had been  
ordered to execute. A month's hard work  
and a portion of the force necessary for  
the undertaking was collected, and the arms,  
ammunition, boats and merchandise were pur-  
chased. On the 5th day of the following month the expe-  
dition set out from the island of Zanzibar, and  
after a short sail of twenty-five miles arrived  
at Bagamoyo, on the mainland. Here the  
travellers disembarked and commenced their  
preparations for marching into the interior.  
After a stay of nearly three months in this  
dreary place, which time was spent in ob-  
taining a number of carriers, known as  
pagazis—a race who inhabit the Mountains of  
the Moon, and who are invaluable in the  
transportation of merchandise over the sterile  
wastes, arid wilds and rich and luxuriant  
plains of interior Africa—the caravan began  
to move, and the enterprise was fairly launched  
upon its perilous voyage. The expedition,  
when it began its march, may be estimated as  
follows:—Three white men, twenty-two sol-  
diers, four supernumeraries, with a transport  
of eighty-two pagazis, or carriers—in all one  
hundred and eleven persons, twenty-seven  
donkeys and two horses. The merchandise,  
presents for the natives, necessary material  
and equipments consisted of fifty-two boxes  
of cloth, seven man-loads of wire, sixteen  
of beads, twenty of boat fixtures, three of  
tents, four of clothes and personal  
baggage, two of cooking and eating utensils,  
one of medicine, three of powder, five of  
bullets, small shot and metallic cartridges;  
three of instruments and three of small im-  
plements and other necessities. The weapons  
of defence were one double-barrelled smooth-  
bore No. 12 cannon, two American Win-  
chester rifles, two Starr's breech-loading car-  
bines, one Jocelyn breech-loader, one  
elephant rifle, two breech-loading revolvers,  
twenty-four flint-lock muskets, six single-  
barrelled pistols, three axes, two swords, two  
daggers, one boar spear, twenty-four hatchets  
and twenty-four long knives.

Leaving Bagamoyo amid the curious gaze  
and noisy demonstrations of the natives, the  
hardy little band set out with gladness  
hearing, for any change was a relief to them,  
and, with not a little anxiety for the future,  
entered upon a mission as adventuresome  
as it was dangerous and as enterprising  
as it was meritorious and praiseworthy. The  
American flag was borne in the van, to be  
carried over unknown lands, across unex-  
plored plains, paraded on the summits  
of rugged mountains, exhibited to the  
gaze of strange, uncivilized people, who  
would look upon it for the first time, and pos-  
sibly be the harbinger of bright hope, relief  
and rescue to the man whose name is written  
in honor on the pages of the world's history.  
The first night out saw the expedition en-  
camped on the banks of the Kingani River. The  
following morning the journey was pursued.  
The strange people in the still stranger country  
through which the white man's caravan passed  
gazed in wonder and astonishment as it pur-  
sued its course. Days and nights came and  
departed, and still deeper and deeper into the  
wild entanglements of African waste did the  
American expedition continue its course,  
now skirting the shores of rivers, again  
marching, Indian file, through dense forests,  
and at other times crossing plains, for which  
the sky served as a boundary, and the lone-  
liness of which impressed all with awe and  
reverence. The scenery at times was grand  
and beautiful, and as well as bleak and  
desolate.

On the 23d of April, being then twenty-  
three days' march from Bagamoyo, the expe-  
dition had travelled one hundred and  
twenty-five miles and had reached Sina-  
baweni. Here the travellers experienced  
some trouble with the Sultana of Sina-  
baweni, which, however, was soon adjusted by  
the firmness of their leader. The terrible swamp  
of Makata was shortly after reached, and here  
the difficulties to be overcome seemed almost  
insurmountable. Forty-five miles of water  
and black mire was enough to daunt the heart  
of the bravest. There was, however, no halt-  
ing, no wavering, no flinching; onward was  
the word, and onward pushed the indomitable  
little band. Death, destruction and an-  
nihilation stared the travellers in the face.  
For five days they continued their  
march through this life-consuming slough,  
and when the passage was made Death  
had drawn his line through their ranks.  
Sickness weakened others, desertions  
reduced the native followers and a  
quantity of merchandise was lost in the  
transit. Rehermeko was reached at the close  
of the rainy season. From the time the ex-  
plorers had left Bagamoyo until the Makata  
Swamp had been crossed it rained almost con-

tinuously. By the 24th of May over two hun-  
dred and seventy-eight miles were traversed,  
and the dangerous land of Wasogoro was  
entered. Up to this period the countries of  
Wakarni, Wakwere, Wadoo, Wasogura, Wasa-  
gara and Wahehe had been gone over; the  
rivers Kingani, Ungerengeri, Little Makata,  
Great Makata, Rudewa and Mukondokwa had  
been crossed; the sources of three rivers  
found out, and one lake discovered.

The Arab village of Kwihara, in Unyany-  
embe, was reached on the 30th day of May,  
and in this place the expedition halted, after  
having travelled five hundred and twenty-five  
miles in eighty-four days. It is from this  
Arab village, far away from civilization, in  
the wilds of Africa, amid a strange people  
and hemmed in on all sides by the surround-  
ings of barbarism, that the HERALD cor-  
respondent writes us the first tidings he has  
heard of Dr. Livingstone. "I saw the Mus-  
ogun at Ujiji, last year. He lived in the  
next tent to me. He has a long white mus-  
tache and was very fat," said Salim bin  
Rashed to our correspondent. "The Mus-  
ogun has gone to Marierina," replied the  
Sheikh Abdullah bin Washib to the queries  
put to him. "I lived with him at Ujiji. His  
men have deserted him. He had nothing  
with him to buy food for a long time. He is  
a very old man and very fat, too," answered  
Skeikh Thani bin Massoud. These and like  
answers did the correspondent receive from  
the native chiefs regarding the great traveller.

From all the information received, which is  
detailed in our correspondent's report in an-  
other page, there is every reason to believe  
that Dr. Livingstone is alive, and though age,  
fatigue, hardship and want have laid their  
marks upon him, yet he lives, and the labors  
of his years will yet enrich science and add to  
the general information of the world. The  
work of the expedition, however, is not yet  
completed, the journey not yet ended. The  
point, however, has been reached from which  
a new departure will be taken. Onward is  
still the cry, and deeper still into the wastes  
must the journey yet be carried. The mission  
so favorably commenced, so energetically per-  
severed in, so courageously upheld must  
crown its enterprise with success ere the an-  
nouncement can be made to the world that the  
goal is won, and that the great traveller  
whose name is a home word throughout the  
universe has been saved or has sunk to a  
lonely grave among the wilds of Africa.

The Unsettled Condition of Spain.

Our telegraphic columns this morning reveal  
the fact that a new ministry has been almost  
completed in Spain. Sagasta is President of  
the Council and Minister of the Interior. Mal-  
campo, who has retired from the first place in  
the Cabinet, reappears as Minister of the  
Marine. Admiral Topete and Señor Angulo  
hesitate as to whether they will serve or  
retire. In this new programme of a Cabinet  
we are sorry that the name of Zorilla  
does not appear. Zorilla is a popular  
favorite; and so long as he is left out,  
or chooses to remain out in the cold there  
must be trouble. It is a pity that a great  
nation like Spain should be ruined by miserable  
politicians. The present troubles of Amadeo  
are the result of political jealousies, and of  
nothing else. The progressists are the most  
powerful party in Spain to-day. But Sagasta  
is a *progresista*, and so is Zorilla; and be-  
cause these two men cannot agree a great and  
hopeful party is losing its chances, and Spain,  
under what seemed at one time favorable  
auspices, is finding progress impossible. But  
how can Spain hope to succeed so long as she  
is without the sympathy of the civilized world?  
Without the sympathy of the civilized world  
she must remain so long as she owns Cuba  
and slavery exists on that island. Why is the  
silver-tongued and liberty-loving Castellar so  
unpronounced about slavery? Spain is in great  
and gross darkness, and what is to become of  
her no man can tell.

Christmas Shopping.

We give to-day a couple more instalments  
of our usual annual articles on the more sal-  
ient features of Christmas trade. One of them  
deals with the general character of holiday  
commerce, and will be found to present a  
readable review of its more pleasant aspects,  
as well as a very good defence of the custom  
of a Christmas interchange of presents. We  
can imagine no more graceful way of honoring  
the birth of Him who said, "It is more blessed  
to give than to receive," than by thus expend-  
ing a few dollars once a year in substantial  
tokens of kindly and genial feeling. Trifles  
of the smallest intrinsic value, thus presented,  
become dearly cherished symbols of affection  
and regard, and strengthen the ties of kindred  
and of friendship into almost indissoluble  
bonds. Though the custom, at least in some  
States, is comparatively a new one, we trust  
it will never in the future be allowed to fall  
into desuetude. Every good man feels that  
the most sacred treasures he can call  
his own are the memories of a happy  
childhood. And a merest passing review of  
the delight with which Christmas gifts brighten  
the faces of the little ones of whom He  
whose coming we are about to celebrate ex-  
pressly called himself the Good Shepherd, is  
of itself the most eloquent and the most  
effective argument in favor of this pleasant  
custom.

We especially commend to the notice of our  
readers the article on Christmas gift books.  
The stock seems this year far richer than ever  
before—in imitation, perhaps, of the English  
market. All that art and genius can do to in-  
struct, refine and amuse has been lavished  
upon these charming productions, many of  
which are especially appropriate to the season,  
and we trust that they will have a large sale.  
A good and beautiful book is, after all, the  
best and most durable of gifts. What other  
present is there, except, perhaps, a fine pic-  
ture, that could possibly endure for hundreds  
of years? Yet such is the happy fate of many  
a precious volume; and we hope that many a  
book now damp from the press, and to be  
given away on Monday, will be prized centu-  
ries hence as a precious heirloom.

FROM JAPAN we have the very interesting  
intelligence that it is proposed to send twenty-  
one native young ladies, daughters of Daimios,  
to America for the purpose of finishing their  
education. American young gentlemen of  
aristocratic tendencies must not "speak all at  
once." Ladies' educational establishments  
will be on the *qui vive*.

The Cold Snap Yesterday.

If our Russian guests had happened to  
have been in this city yesterday, they must  
have been satisfied with the Siberian and  
Kamschatka-like character of the weather.  
It was decidedly the champion "cold snap" of  
the season, and if that venerable old gray-  
beard, the "oldest inhabitant," can point to a  
severer day, let him "trot it out." The aver-  
age temperature in the city yesterday was  
thirty-two degrees below that of the same day  
last year. Besides, the streets and the side-  
walks were so slippery, and the pedestrians  
and horses so poorly prepared for this sudden  
introduction of the "sliding scale" into loco-  
motion, that many a fall of human and dumb  
creatures was the consequence. Down went  
the people, down went the thermometer and  
down went the gold market. The only things  
that appeared to have had an upward ten-  
dency were the prices of Christmas turkeys,  
fats and fowl, although we must confess that the  
coal merchants, thus far the present season,  
have exhibited a little more of the milk of  
human kindness than has been their wont in  
similar biting weather. We refer to our  
weather reports this morning with full confi-  
dence that "Old Probabilities" has done full  
justice to the occasion, and, pointing to the  
state of the thermometer (at one degree  
below zero), he can triumphantly exclaim,  
"How is that for low?"

Bismarck's Reclamation Against French  
Outrages.

The Premier of Germany has despatched a  
note of ominous import to Paris. He has ad-  
dressed the German Ambassador in France  
officially on the subject of the outrages which  
are perpetrated by the French people against  
Prussian soldiers serving in the Army of Occu-  
pation. He announces that Germany is be-  
coming "exasperated," and threatens retalia-  
tion on the offenders, in her name, if the cause  
of complaint is not abated. The Prince-  
Premier states that French hostages will be  
seized in future in the pledged territory if the  
assassins, who flee from the scene of their crime  
into the other provinces of the republic, are  
not delivered by the French authorities to the  
Prussians for punishment. Bismarck declares,  
finally, that if these "horrible outrages" do  
not cease the Prussian Army of Occupation  
will be increased in force and the expense and  
burden of its support—which France has to pay  
under the treaty of peace—be doubled. In  
words such as these France is made to expe-  
rience the *ex vicis* of military conquest in  
its fullest force and severity and as it has been  
recorded in the earliest history of army ter-  
rorism, unchanged. The exercise of the "wild  
justice of revenge" is a terrible crime against  
humanity—cold-blooded assassination still  
more horrible. The imperialism, or impe-  
riousness, of triumphant soldiers serving as  
an army of occupation in a foreign country is  
very exacting—sometimes unreasonable, fre-  
quently unjust. Crime is often provoked  
among the conquered by the conduct of the  
victors. The enforcement of an iron-rule  
martial law against a people—the innocent  
and guilty alike—rarely cures it. Perhaps  
no foreign army serving in a strange land,  
among persons speaking an unknown tongue,  
has been kept strictly and healthily in hand  
by its commanders since Arthur Wellesley led  
the British troops to triumph on the European  
peninsula and disciplined them in Spain—  
after some "looting" to be sure—for the prac-  
tice of self-denial at Waterloo.

GRANT DUFF ON THE INTERNATIONAL.—Mr.  
Grant Duff, a sturdy and learned Scotchman  
of the ancient Northern stock, who has for  
many years past honored his Elgin constitu-  
ents by delivering to them the best political  
recess sermon, has again been in Elgin and  
made his annual speech. The speech is not  
before us, but we are not unwilling to believe  
that it was good. Mr. Grant Duff is the Un-  
der Secretary of State for India, and, so far  
as we know, the Duke of Argyll and himself  
are both doing reasonably well. Mr. Grant  
Duff, it seems, in his latest Elgin speech went  
in strongly for Cobden's free trade policy,  
and was the reverse of complimentary to the  
International. How could a man of common  
sense, like Mr. Grant Duff, find a place in his  
heart for men who murder unoffending priests  
and bishops in cold blood? The International  
may have its harmless parades, but the  
thoughtful, conservative men of these times  
like it not, and will not have it.

Personal Intelligence.

General F. D. Callender, of the United States Army,  
has quarters at the Metropolitan Hotel.  
Commander R. B. Lowry, of the United States  
Navy, is at the Everett Hotel.  
General E. W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse, is  
quartered at the St. Nicholas Hotel.  
Judge Amasa J. Parker yesterday arrived from  
Albany, at the New York Hotel.  
E. M. Hughes, of the United States Navy, has  
quarters at the Grand Central Hotel.  
Charles Marcellus, of the Boston Journal, is  
among yesterday's arrivals at the St. Nicholas  
Hotel.  
Judge Miller, of Hudson, is sojourning at the St.  
Nicholas Hotel.  
State Senator William M. Ely, of Hinghamton, is  
temporarily residing at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.  
Henry Wells, of Aurora, the head of the great firm  
of carriers, Wells, Fargo & Co., is among the ar-  
rivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.  
Congressman Fernando Wood yesterday returned  
to the city and is stopping at the Gayley House.  
Wayne McVeagh, of Harrisburg, Pa., is stopping  
at the Brevoort House. He has but lately returned  
from Constantinople, where he occupied the position  
of Minister Resident.  
The Marquis Albert Trucis Camerano, of Italy,  
has taken apartments at the New York Hotel.  
H. H. Plant, of Georgia, is at the Gayley House.  
Mr. Plant is Superintendent of the Southern branch  
of the Adams Express.  
Speaker Blaine yesterday came to the city and  
took quarters at the Grand Central Hotel. He will  
leave for his home to-day.  
Personal Notes.  
Miss Tenny Grog has been appointed Postmistress  
at Bradford, Va.  
Hon. S. S. Cox, M. C., of New York, will start for a  
holiday trip home in a few days.  
Horace Greeley and Rev. W. H. Murray will  
lecture in Winsted, Conn., this season.  
The "Great American Traveller," Daniel Pratt,  
will rest for some time in Manchester, N. H., where  
he has been arrested for vagrancy.  
Miss Charlotte Cushman is building a cottage at  
Newport, R. I., which is to cost \$20,000. It is so  
planned that all the rooms are octagonal.  
Hon. Samuel Hooper, M. C., of Massachusetts, will  
leave Washington immediately on the adjournment  
of Congress, to spend the holidays at his home.  
A Mrs. Smythe, of Indianapolis, Ind., now has  
her fifth husband, and yet she has never changed  
her name. She was born a Smith, her first hus-  
band was named Smith, her second Schmidt, her  
third Smyth, her fourth Smythe and her present  
Smythe.